

COUNCIL BRIEFS

November 17, 2017

Chief Tracey Gove retires: Police Chief Tracey Gove announced on November 13 that he will retire from the West Hartford Police Department on November 30, 2017.

Tracey Gove was appointed Police Chief on December 13, 2011 by former Town Manager Ron VanWinkle. He has been a member of the West Hartford Police Department for 22 years. [Click here to read the full article.](#) Best wishes and thank you to Chief Gove!

Housing Rehabilitation helps income-eligible homeowners: Funded through a HUD Community Development Block Grant, the Housing Rehabilitation Program, now in its 43rd year, assists income eligible, owner-occupied properties with repairs to correct housing code violations. These violations include reduction of lead-based paint hazards, replacement of heating systems, roofing, windows and entry doors, electrical upgrades, and handicapped accessible components such as ramps and stair glides. Since July 1, 2017, the program helped eight properties with \$89,853 in assistance. For more information, call [Sally Nolen](#) at 860-561-7562.

Aid to Puerto Rico and Virgin Island refugees: A cross-departmental team has been tracking refugees from Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands who have lost their homes as a result of Hurricane Maria that hit on Sept. 21. West Hartford presently has eleven individuals including five children who are staying with family until it is safe to return to their homes. To help, the team assembled a resource packet complete with a 2-1-1 Resource Directory, FEMA assistance application, Social Services brochure, Health District directory of services, and West Hartford Public Schools residency and registration information. FEMA assistance deadline for aid is November 20.

Outdoor Aquatics Survey: The Department of Leisure Services is reviewing the operation of its neighborhood pools to examine how well it meets the needs of the community during the eight-week summer season. To collect feedback,

a seven-question survey was conducted from November 3-12. The department received 424 responses. A community outreach meeting was held on November 15 at Elmwood Community Center to share the survey results and receive additional comments from residents.

West Hartford Libraries Kindness Project: To celebrate the spirit of kindness and to coincide with the movie release, *Wonder*, based on the popular book by R. J. Palacio, the West Hartford Libraries created The Kindness Project. Residents of all ages can participate by donating toiletries and personal hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotions, etc. at any of the three libraries from Nov. 20 to Dec. 15. Children and teens are invited to help assemble the “kindness cases,” colorful Ziploc bags filled with the donated items, on Dec. 16 at 11 AM. The bags will be distributed to those in need through the West Hartford Food Pantry. [Click here for details.](#)

Trex Film Plastic Challenge: Starting on November 15, America Recycles Day, King Philip Middle School has joined Trex in their Film Plastic Challenge. Students will learn about the value of recycling plastic film while building new family recycling habits along the way. Film plastics are commonly used for food packaging, grocery bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, and bread bags. Trex is a leading recycler of plastic films to produce synthetic building materials commonly used for decks and outdoor structures.

Holiday closings; trash delay: The Town of West Hartford wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving! Due to the holiday, the collection of trash and recyclable items will be delayed one day in the Thursday and Friday collection areas only. All municipal facilities, libraries, schools and recycling center will be closed on Thursday, November 23. To learn more, [click here.](#)

Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager